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REMARKS

Claims 7 and 9, as amended, remain herein. All other claims have been cancelled.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 9, and claim 9 has been amended to include in the pattern display apparatus a stationary display member, and a flexible organic electroluminescent (EL) device located on an outer surface of the stationary display member, the flexible organic EL device for displaying at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a second character, a second figure and a second mark (see former claim 6), the flexible organic EL device including a laminated structure including layers ordered in the sequence of a flexible base layer, a first electrode layer, an EL layer, an insulating layer, a second electrode layer and a flexible sealing layer (see Fig. 5), and the insulating layer having a pattern whose shape is completely negative (opposite) to the shape of the at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a

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second character, a second figure and a second mark. See applicants' specification at page 21, line 33 to page 22, line 1, describing insulating layer 9 laminated to EL layer 5 (Fig. 5), and page 16, lines 21-23, describing insulating layer 9 being patterned.

1. The Office Action contains a statement that a copy of Japanese reference 2002-85624 has not been received. Duplicate copies of JP '624, the Information Disclosure Statement, and PTO Form 1449 as filed on April 12, 2004 are enclosed. A copy of the date-stamped docket receipt card is enclosed also. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of PTO Form 1449 indicating receipt and consideration of the JP '624 reference.

2. Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Chien U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0003697. Claim 6 has been canceled, thereby mooting its rejection; claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 9, which has been amended to recite

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the subject matter of canceled claim 6 and additional subject matter as described herein.

The presently claimed pattern display apparatus includes a stationary display member, and a flexible organic electroluminescent (EL) device located on an outer surface of the stationary display member, the flexible organic EL device for displaying at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a second character, a second figure and a second mark, wherein the flexible organic EL device includes a laminated structure including layers ordered in the sequence of a flexible base layer, a first electrode layer, an EL layer, an insulating layer, a second electrode layer and a flexible sealing layer, and the insulating layer has a pattern, whose shape is completely negative (opposite) to the shape of the at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a second character, a second figure and a second mark. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

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Chien '697 is said to disclose a stationary display member and a flexible organic electroluminescent (EL) device located on an outer surface of the stationary display member, the flexible organic EL device for displaying at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a character, a second figure and a second mark. But Chien '697 does not disclose or suggest a flexible organic EL device having a laminated structure including (1) layers ordered in the sequence of a flexible base layer, a first electrode layer, an EL layer, an insulating layer, a second electrode layer and a flexible sealing layer, and also (2) an insulating layer pattern shape that is completely negative (opposite) to the shape of the at least one of a first character, a first figure, a first mark and a first pattern including at least one of a second character, a second figure and a second mark. Chien '697 does not describe a patterned insulating layer being located "on" the EL layer, with one electrode above the insulating layer and the other electrode beneath the EL layer, which arrangement nullifies the effect of a voltage applied between electrode layers surrounding the EL

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and insulating layers, thereby rendering a pattern of nonluminous regions. Neither the Chien '697 Figs. 1A-1E nor Figs. A-M show, or their corresponding descriptions in Chien '697 paragraphs 0014-48 describe, a sequence of layers including an electrode, an EL layer, an insulating layer, and another electrode, as shown in applicants' Fig. 5, showing EL layer 5 located on electrode 4 and beneath insulating layer 9, with electrode 6 above layer 9, and as recited in applicants' claim 9, from which claim 7 depends.

For the foregoing reasons, Chien '697 fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. Claim 7, which depends from claim 9, is allowable for the same reasons given for the patentability of claim 9. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Griswold et al. U.S. Patent 6,027,115 in view of Carcia et al. U.S. Patent 6,720,203. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled, thereby mooting the rejection.

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4. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chien '697 in view of Carcia et al. '203. Claim 8 has been canceled, thereby mooted the rejection.

4. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chien '697 in view of Carcia et al. '203 further in view of Kawasaki et al. U.S. Patent 6,281,552. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 as amended was discussed previously. Chien '697 does not disclose or suggest a pattern display apparatus including a flexible organic electroluminescent (EL) device located on an outer surface of a stationary display member, the EL device having a laminated structure including layers ordered in the sequence of a flexible base layer, a first electrode layer, an EL layer, an insulating layer, a second electrode layer and a flexible sealing layer, and the insulating layer having a pattern, as claimed.

Carcia et al. '203 is so to teach placing a flexible sealing layer on an EL device for protection against moisture.

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But, Carcia et al. '203 does not teach such sealing layer as an insulating layer located on the EL layer with electrodes above the insulating layer and below the EL layer, wherein the insulating layer has a pattern, as recited in applicants' claim 9. Therefore, Carcia '203 does not overcome the deficiencies of Chien '697.

Kawasaki et al. '552 is said to teach an insulating layer located between a first electrode 2027 and a second electrode 2030 and located in a predetermined pattern in order to limit light emission on a predetermined area. But Kawasaki '552 insulating layer 2028 is not located on the surface of EL layer 2029 with electrodes above the insulating layer and below the EL layer. Therefore, Kawasaki et al. '552 does not provide what is missing in Chien '697.

For the foregoing reasons, none of Chien '697, Carcia et al. '203 or Kawasaki et al. '552 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, or motivation that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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Claims 7 and 9 are now proper in form and patentably distinguish over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of claims 7 and 9 is respectfully requested.

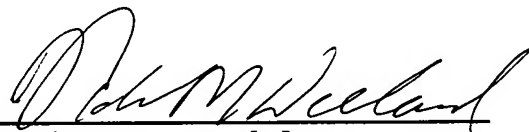
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

January 18, 2005
Date

CAW:RNW/mhs


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Attachments: Copy of 3/11/04 postcard receipt
Copy of 3/11/04 IDS and 1449
Copy of JP 2002-85624

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